

HEDUS 002

REMARKS**I. General Discussion**

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19 and 20 were rejected in the Office Action dated November 1, 2005. Claims 8 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Dependent claim 8 depends from dependent claim 7 which depends from independent claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 7 and 8. Therefore, Claim 1 now contains the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and the limitations of intervening claim 7 and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 18 depends from dependent claim 17 which depends from independent claim 13. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 17 and 18. Therefore, Claim 13 now contains the allowable subject matter of claim 18 and the limitations of intervening claim 17 and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 19 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 2-6 and 9-12 are dependent from amended independent claim 1 which now contains allowable subject matter. Therefore dependent claims 2-6 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance.

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Claims 14-16 are dependent from amended independent claim 13 which now contains allowable subject matter. Therefore dependent claims 14-16 are in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims 1-6 and 9-16 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative by phone if any outstanding issues remain to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patents and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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January 4, 2006

Date